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REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Barney for the analysis contained in the Examination Report.

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Barney for indicating that claims 13 and 14 are allowed while claims 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. In order to place the application in suitable condition for allowance, claim 9 is now an independent claim form and all of the dependent claims are now amended, by the above claim amendments, to depend from claim 9. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that such amendment places all of the pending claims, except for independent claim 1, in suitable condition for allowance.

In the outstanding official action, the claims are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable in view of Weston '750, Ericksson '181, Knight et al. '407, Takata '311 and/or Gorden '039. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

The arguments raised by the Applicant in support of the patentability of claim 1 and claim 7 were deemed to be moot by the Examiner in view of new grounds of rejection. Claim 1 presently stands rejected as being unpatentable over Weston '750, Ericksson '181 and Knight et al. '407. Claim 7 presently stands rejected in further view of Gorden '039. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner give final consideration to the patentability of claim 1, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

With the present invention there are six wheels, each of which has its own suspension with at least one air bag. There is fluid communications between the air bag on the suspension for one wheel and the air bags on the suspension for the other five wheels. The Gorden '039 reference merely shows dual air bags. There is no communication between the air bags for the front wheels and the air bags for the rear wheels. This means that a force exerted upon the air bags for the front wheel on the driver's side of Gorden '039 is not distributed to the air bags for the rear wheel on the driver's side, as is the case with the present invention. This aspect of the

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invention is described on page 7, at line 31 through to page 8, line 1 and such features are incorporated into independent claim 1, as amended.

With the present invention, the chemical applicator mounting platform is dynamically adjusted by extendible actuators to compensate for any oscillation(s) that can not be damped by the air bag suspension. It is important to note that control is maintained solely through the extendible actuators, which rigidly support the chemical applicator mounting platform. In contrast, Knight et al. '407 uses linkage 6 to select an "optimum position" of levelling bar 3 for a "given set of circumstances". Thereafter, Knight et al. '407 relies upon springs 4 and shock absorbers 5. The inventor indicates that one must have rigid control over the chemical applicator mounting platform. If the chemical applicator mounting platform is allowed movement, even if damped by the presence of springs 4 and shock absorbers 5, the results when travelling in rugged terrain will be unacceptable. This aspect of the invention is also inserted into independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that this aspect of the invention was the focus of the arguments in response to the first Official Action and, therefore, should not necessitate a further search. The amendments merely insert further limitations into the claim in order to more clearly distinguish over the Knight et al. '407 reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, requests the early issue of a Notice of Allowance.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejections should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejections or applicability of the Weston '750, Ericksson '181, Knight et al. '407, Takata '311 and/or Gorden '039 references,

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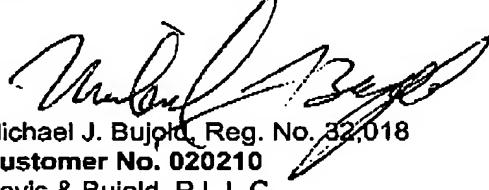
the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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